CLOSED

U.S. District Court Eastern District of New York (Brooklyn) CRIMINAL DOCKET FOR CASE #: 1:22-mj-00406-LB-1 Internal Use Only

Case title: USA v. Assi Date Filed: 04/08/2022

Date Terminated: 04/11/2022

Assigned to: Magistrate Judge

Lois Bloom

Defendant (1)

Raminderjit Assi represented by Kathryn Wozencroft

TERMINATED: 04/11/2022 Federal Defenders of New York

One Pierrepont Plaza Ste 16th Floor Brooklyn, NY 11201 718–330–1207

Fax: 718–855–0760

Email: kathryn wozencroft@fd.org

LEAD ATTORNEY

ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

Designation: Public Defender or Community

Defender Appointment

Pending Counts <u>Disposition</u>

None

<u>Highest Offense Level</u>

(Opening)

None

<u>Terminated Counts</u> <u>Disposition</u>

None

Highest Offense Level

(Terminated)

None

<u>Complaints</u> <u>Disposition</u>

21:841A=MD.F

Plaintiff

USA

represented by Andrew Reich

U.S. Attorney's Office 271 Cadman Plaza East Brooklyn, NY 11201

Email: Andrew.Reich@usdoj.gov

LEAD ATTORNEY

ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

Designation: Government Attorney

Date Filed	#	Page	Docket Text
04/08/2022	1		RULE 40 AFFIDAVIT by USA as to Raminderjit Assi by Affiant Ryan W. Shipley (Sica, Michele) (Entered: 04/11/2022)
04/08/2022	2		CJA 23 Financial Affidavit by Raminderjit Assi (Sica, Michele) (Entered: 04/11/2022)
04/08/2022			Arrest (Rule 40) of Raminderjit Assi (Sica, Michele) (Entered: 04/11/2022)
04/08/2022	3		Minute Entry for proceedings held before Magistrate Judge Lois Bloom: For a Removal Proceeding/Arraignment as to Raminderjit Assi (1) Count Complaint held on 4/8/2022, Attorney Appointment Hearing as to Raminderjit Assi held on 4/8/2022, Initial Appearance in Rule 5(c)(3) Proceedings as to Raminderjit Assi held on 4/8/2022 AUSA Andrew Re3ich; Federal Defender, Katie Wozencroft; Pretrial Officer Valeria Lopez. Defense presented a bail package as stated on the record; The government opposed as stated on the record. The Court stated concerns on the record and made asked for a 2nd call on this case. Defense secured a hotel room for the defendant to stay in until Monday 4–11–2022. The Court ordered the release of the defendant on a \$200,000.00 bond with conditions. The defendant was advised of bond conditions and signed the bond, 2 sureties were sworn and advised of bond obligations and signed the bond. A Status conference is set for Monday 4–11–2022 before the duty Magistrate Judge Mann at 11am Brady Act Rule 5f ordered on the record. (FTR Log #3:10–3:36 2nd 4:16–4:36.) (Sica, Michele) (Entered: 04/11/2022)
04/08/2022	4		*SEALED* ORDER Setting Conditions of Release as to Raminderjit Assi (1) 200,000. Ordered by Magistrate Judge Lois Bloom on 4/08/2022. (Sica, Michele) (Entered: 04/11/2022)
04/11/2022			Minute Entry for Status Conference as to Raminderjit Assi held on 4/11/2022 before Magistrate Judge Roanne L. Mann: AUSA Andrew Reich; FDNY Katie Wozencroft for Defendant; PTS Rob Long present. Status conference held. Defendant will travel to Buffalo, NY today and stay in a hotel until his court appearance in WDNY on Wednesday, 4/13/2022. Time excluded from 4/11/2022 to 4/13/2022 for reasons stated on the record. (FTR Log #Courtroom 11B, 11:11–11:24) (Hugh, Lewis) (Entered: 04/11/2022)
04/11/2022			ORDER TO CONTINUE – Ends of Justice as to Raminderjit Assi Time excluded from 4/11/2022 until 4/13/2022 Ordered by Magistrate Judge Roanne L. Mann on 4/11/2022. (Hugh, Lewis) (Entered: 04/11/2022)

AB:ADR	
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK	
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF REMOVAL TO THE
- against -	WESTERN DISTRICT OF
RAMINDERJIT ASSI	<u>NEW YORK</u> (Fed. R. Crim. P. 5)
Defendant.	Case No. 22-MJ-406
X	

EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, SS:

Ryan W. Shipley, being duly sworn, deposes and states that he is a Special Agent with Homeland Security Investigations ("HSI"), duly appointed according to law and acting as such.

On or about August 27, 2020, the United States District Court for the Western District of New York issued an arrest warrant commanding the arrest of RAMINDERJIT ASSI on an indictment charging violations of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1), 846, 952 and 963, and Title 18, United States Code, Section 2 (conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute marijuana, possession of marijuana with intent to distribute, conspiracy to import marijuana and importation of marijuana).

The source of your deponent's information and the grounds for his belief are as follows:¹

Because the purpose of this Complaint is to set forth only those facts necessary to establish probable cause to arrest, I have not described all the relevant facts and circumstances of which I am aware.

- 1. On or about August 27, 2020, the United States District Court for the Western District of New York issued an arrest warrant commanding the arrest of RAMINDERJIT ASSI for violations of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1), 846, 952 and 963, and Title 18, United States Code, Section 2, following his indictment on those charges. A true and correct copy of the Indictment is attached hereto as Exhibit A. A true and correct copy of the Arrest Warrant is attached hereto as Exhibit B.
- 2. The defendant was arrested at LaGuardia Airport on April 8, 2022 at approximately 12:15 a.m. by U.S. Customs and Border Protection ("CBP") personnel. He was transported to John F. Kennedy International Airport where he was processed and transferred to HSI custody. The defendant stated to me that his name was "Raminderjit Assi." I asked the defendant his date of birth, which he provided, and which was the same as RAMINDERJIT ASSI's date of birth. The defendant's passport contained RAMINDERJIT ASSI's name and date of birth. I also recognized the defendant from a photograph of RAMINDERJIT ASSI that I had reviewed pursuant to the investigation.
- 3. Based on the foregoing, I submit that there is probable cause to believe that the defendant is the RAMINDERJIT ASSI wanted in the Western District of New York.

WHEREFORE, your deponent respectfully requests that the defendant

RAMINDERJIT ASSI be removed to the Western District of New York so that he may be dealt with according to law.

/s/ Ryan W. Shipley

Ryan W. Shipley Special Agent HSI

Sworn to before me this 8th day of April, 2022

THE HONORABLE LOIS BLOOM

UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

EXHIBIT A

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STREET FIRST COURT CLERK WESTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

for the Western District of New York

AUG 27 2020

October 2019 GRAND JURY (Impaneled 10/18/2019)

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

INDICTMENT 20 CR 1235

-VS-

RAMINDERJIT ASSI (Counts 1-4), and

Violations:

Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1), 846, 952, and 963; Title 18, United States Code, Section 2 (4 Counts and Forfeiture Allegation)

COUNT 1

(Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Distribute Marijuana)

The Grand Jury Charges That:

From in or about 2017, the exact date being unknown, until on or about April 9, 2019, in the Western District of New York, and elsewhere, the defendants, RAMINDERJIT ASSI, did knowingly, willfully, and unlawfully combine, conspire, and agree together and with others, known and unknown, to commit the following offenses, that is, to possess with intent to distribute, and to distribute, marijuana, a Schedule I controlled substance, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(D).

All in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 846.

COUNT 2

(Possession of Marijuana with Intent to Distribute)

The Grand Jury Further Charges That:

On or about April 9, 2019, in the Western District of New York, and elsewhere, the defendants, RAMINDERJIT ASSI did knowingly, intentionally, and unlawfully possess with intent to distribute marijuana, a Schedule I controlled substance.

All in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(D), and Title 18, United States Code, Section 2.

COUNT 3

(Conspiracy to Import Marijuana)

The Grand Jury Further Charges That:

From in or about 2017, the exact date being unknown, until on or about April 9, 2019, in the Western District of New York, and elsewhere, the defendants, RAMINDERJIT ASSI did knowingly, willfully, and unlawfully combine, conspire, and agree together and with others, known and unknown, to commit the following offenses, that is, to import into the United States from a place outside thereof, that is, Canada, marijuana, a Schedule I controlled substance, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 952(a), 960(a)(1), and 960(b)(4).

All in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 963.

COUNT 4

(Importation of Marijuana)

The Grand Jury Further Charges That:

On or about April 9, 2019, in the Western District of New York, and elsewhere, the defendants, RAMINDERJIT ASSI did knowingly, intentionally, and unlawfully import into the United States from a place outside thereof, that is, Canada, marijuana, a Schedule I controlled substance.

All in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 952(a), 960(a)(1), and 960(b)(4).

FORFEITURE ALLEGATION

The Grand Jury Alleges That:

Upon conviction of any of the controlled substance offenses alleged in Counts 1 through 4 of this Indictment, the defendants, RAMINDERJIT ASSI

shall forfeit to the United States any property constituting, and derived from proceeds obtained, directly and indirectly, as a result of said violations and any and all property used, and intended to be used, in any manner and part, to commit and to facilitate the commission of said violations, including, but not limited to the following:

MONETARY JUDGMENT:

The sum of two hundred and sixteen thousand dollars (\$216,000) in United States currency, to be evidenced by a monetary judgment issued by this Court in aforesaid amount. Said judgment amount will accrue at the prevailing rate per annum and serve as a judgment and lien against defendant's property, wherever situated until fully satisfied.

All pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Sections 853(a)(1), 853(a)(2) and 853(p).

DATED: Buffalo, New York, August 27, 2020.

JAMES P. KENNEDY, JR. United States Attorney

BY: S/BRENDAN T. CULLINANE
Assistant United States Attorney
United States Attorney's Office
Western District of New York
138 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14202
716/843-5875
Brendan.Cullinane@usdoj.gov

A TRUE BILL:

S/FOREPERSON

EXHIBIT B

AO 442 (Rev. 11/11) Arrest Warrant

United States District Court

for the
strict of New York
Case No. 20-CR- 20 CR 12
T WARRANT
g before a United States magistrate judge without unnecessary ASSI, who is accused of an offense or violation based on the
nformation Superseding Information Complaint
Violation Petition
846, 952, and 963; Title 18, United States Code,
MARY C. LOEWENGUTH Issuing officer's signature
MARY C. LOEWENGUTH
CLERK OF THE COURT Printed name and Title
Return
, and the person was arrested on (date),
Arresting officer's signature
Printed name and title

CJA-23 (Rev 3/21)

FINANCIAL AFFIDAVIT
IN SUPPORT OF REQUEST FOR ATTORNEY, EXPERT, OR OTHER SERVICES WITHOUT PAYMENT OF FEE

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRIBUTED IN THE CASE OF	RICT COURT COURT OF APPEALS	OTHER (Specify Below) FOR LOCATION NUMBER			
U.S.A.	v. Assi	AT			
PERSON REPRESENTED (Show your ful	I name)	IED Contain Adult			
Raminderjit Assi		Defendant - Adult Docket Numbers Magistrate Judge Bloom Judge Bloom District Court District Court			
CHARGE/OFFENSE (Describe if applical	ble & check box→)	5 ☐ Supervised Release Violator 6 ☐ Habeas Petitioner EDNY Court of Appeals			
21 USC 841, 846, 963, 952	☐ Misdemeanor	7 \[2255 Petitioner \] 8 \[Material Witness \] 9 \[Other (Specify) \]			
ANSV	VERS TO QUESTIONS REGARDING	G ABILITY TO PAY			
	Do you have a job? ☑Yes ☐No	20. (
EMPLOYMENT	IF YES, how much do you earn per mo	onth? 3,390° (U.S.)			
	Will you still have a job after this arrest? Yes No Dinknown				
INCOME & PROPERTY ASSETS CASH & BANK	Car/Truck/Vehicle\$ Boat \$ Stocks/bonds \$ Other property \$ Do you have any cash, or money in sav	TE DESCRIPTION & AMOUNT OWED			
ACCOUNTS	IF YES, give the total approximate am	ount after monthly expenses \$			
How many pe	eople do you financially support?	_			
OBLIGATIONS, EXPENSES, & DEBTS	Childcare \$ Child support \$ Insurance \$ 315.99 W	PENSE TOTAL DEBT \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$			
I certify under penalty of	perjury that the foregoing is true and co	rrect.			
ZIGNATI	IN OF DEFENDANT	N/8/9095			

(OR PERSON SEEKING REPRESENTATION)

INITIAL APPEARANCE CALENDAR Magistrate Judge :__ Magistrate Case Number: Defendant's Name: Defendant retained counsel. Court appointed counsel. CJA: FDNY: ▶ RET: Defense Counsel: Clerk: Interpreter: Language: _____ Kemoral ARRAIGNMENT on Complaint held. ___ Government Agent Sworn DETENTION HEARING Held:

Government opposed bail for reasons stated on the record. Defendant: released held pending satisfaction of bond conditions. Defendant advised of bond conditions set by the Court and signed the bond. Surety(ies) sworn, advised of bond obligations by the Court and signed the bond. (Additional) surety/ies to co-sign bond by _____ After detention hearing, Court orders detention in custody. ____ Leave to reopen granted Temporary Order of Detention Issued. Bail Hearing set for _____ At this time, defense counsel states on the record that the defendant does not have a bail application / package. Order of detention entered with leave to reapply to a Magistrate or to the District Court Judge to whom the case will be assigned. waived by defendant reliminary Hearing set for: ; or Status Conference set for: 11 AM before Judge Mark Duty Rule 5f warnings given to the Govt. Medical memo issued. REMOVAL (Rule 5) PROCEEDING held. To the district of: Identity hearing held. Court ____ orders removal ____ denies removal Defendant waives: identity hearing preliminary hearing Identity/ Removal Hearing set for: No bail application presented to the Court. Commitment to the District entered. Other Comments/Rulings: Deline Market i Dovermont opposed ted conclins on the record. The a

Case 2229 900 000 CB. BD Debut British 03/4 10 R02 27 Republic of 23/4 Case 300 And Case 300 And

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Release of the Defendant is hereby ordered on

ORDER SETTING CONDITIONS OF RELEASE AND APPEARANCE BOND

	1	

Rambalon At Assi, Defendant. Case Number: 22-m-406
RELEASE ORDER
It is hereby ORDERED that the above-named defendant be released subject to the Standard Conditions of Release on the reverse and as follows: [] Upon Personal Recognizance Bond on his/her promise to appear at all scheduled proceedings as required, or [] Upon Bond executed by the defendant in the amount of \$
Additional Conditions of Release
The Court finding that release under the Standard Conditions of Release on the reverse will not by themselves reasonably assure the appearance of the defendant and/or the safety of other persons and the community, IT IS FURTHER ORDERED as follows:
[] 1. The defendant must remain in and may not leave the following areas without Court permission: [] New York City; [] Long Island, NY; [] New York State; [] New Jersey; [] What has a fault ravel to and from this Court and the permitted areas. [] 2. The defendant must avoid all contact with the following persons or entities:
The defendant must avoid and not go to any of the following locations: The defendant must surrender all passports to Pretrial Services by and not obtain other passports or international travel documents. The defendant is placed under the supervision of the Pretrial Services Agency subject to the Special Conditions on the reverse and: a. is subject to random visits by a Pretrial Services officer at defendant's residence and/or place of work; b. must report [] as directed by Pretrial Services or [] in person times per and/or [] by telephone times per c. must undergo [] testing, [] evaluation and/or [] treatment for substance abuse, including alcoholism, as directed by Pretrial Services. d. must undergo evaluation and treatment for mental health problems, as directed by Pretrial Services. e. is subject to the following location restriction program with location monitoring, as directed by Pretrial Services: [] home incarceration: restricted to home at all times, except for attorney visits, court appearances and necessary medical treatment; [] home detention: restricted to home at all times, except for attorney visits, court appearances, medical treatment, [] religious services, [] employment, [] school or training, [] biner activities approved by Pretrial Services. []
I, the undersigned defendant, and each surety who signs this bond, acknowledge that I have read this Appearance Bond and, and have either read all the other conditions of release or have had those conditions explained. I further acknowledge that I and my personal representatives, jointly and severally, are bound to pay the United States of America the sum of S and that this obligation is secured with the below interest in the following property ("Collateral") which I represent is/are free and clear of liens except as otherwise indicated:
[] cash deposited in the Registry of the Court in the sum of \$
Each owner of the above Collateral agrees not to sell the property, allow further claims or encumbrances to be made against it, or do anything to reduce its value while this Appearance Bond is in effect.
Forfeiture of the Bond. This Appearance Bond may be forfeited if the defendant fails to comply with any of the conditions set forth above and on the reverse. The defendant and any surety who has signed this form also agree that the court may immediately order the amount of the bond surrendered to the United States, including any security for the bond, if the defendant fails to comply with the above agreement. The court may also order a judgment of forfeiture against the defendant and against each surety for the entire amount of the bond, including any interest and costs. Date
Raba it Ruprai-Assi 315-Edgar Ale Burlington Ontario 4/8/22 Mangal Assi Address: Same "14/8/22"
Address:
I acknowledge that I am the defendant in this case and that I am aware of the conditions of release and of the penalties and sanctions set forth on the front and reverse sides of this form.
Signature of Defendant

STANDARD CONDITIONS OF RELEASE

IT IS ORDERED that the defendant's release is subject to these conditions:

- (1) The defendant must not violate any federal, state or local law while on release.
- (2) The defendant must cooperate in the collection of a DNA sample if the collection is authorized by 42 U.S.C. § 14135a.
- (3) The defendant must advise the Court, the Pretrial Services office, defense Counsel and the U.S. Attorney in writing before making any change in address or telephone number.
- (4) The defendant must appear in court as required and must surrender for service of any sentence imposed as directed.
- (5) The defendant must refrain from use or unlawful possession of a narcotic drug or other controlled substances as defined in 21 U.S.C. § 802, unless prescribed by a licensed medical practitioner.
- (6) If the defendant fails to report as required to the Pretrial Services Agency, defendant may be subject to such random visits at his/her residence or work by a Pretrial Services Officer as may be necessary to verify his/her residence or place of employment in order to secure compliance with the order of release.
- (7) The defendant must not possess a firearm, destructive device, or other weapon.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF RELEASE FOR TESTING, TREATMENT OR EVALUATION AND FOR LOCATION MONITORING

- If the defendant fails to appear for any specified treatment or evaluation, defendant may be subject to such random visits at his/her residence or work by a Pretrial Services Officer as may be necessary to verify his/her residence or place of employment in order to secure compliance with the order of release.
- The defendant must not obstruct, attempt to obstruct, or tamper with the efficiency and accuracy of prohibited substance screening
 or testing. Testing may be used with random frequency and may include urine testing, the wearing of a sweat patch, a remote
 alcohol testing system, and/or any form of prohibited substance screening or testing, as determined by Pretrial Services.
- 3. If defendant is subject to a location restriction program or location monitoring, defendant must:
 - (a) stay at his/her residence at all times except for approved activities and may not leave for approved activities without providing prior notice to Pretrial Services, except in cases of medical emergencies.
 - (b) abide by all program requirements and instructions provided by Pretrial Services relating to the operation of monitoring technology. Unless specifically ordered by the court, Pretrial Services may require use of one of the following or comparable monitoring technology: Radio Frequency (RF) monitoring; Passive Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) monitoring; Active Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) monitoring (including "hybrid" (Active/Passive) GPS); Voice Recognition monitoring.

FORFEITURE OF THE BOND

This appearance bond may be forfeited if the defendant does not comply with the conditions of release set forth in this Order Setting Conditions of Release and Bond. The court may immediately order the amount of the bond and any Collateral surrendered to the United States if the defendant does not comply with the agreement. At the request of the United States, the court may order a judgment of forfeiture against the defendant and each surety for the entire amount of the bond, including interest and costs.

RELEASE OF THE BOND

This appearance bond may be terminated at any time by the Court. This bond will be satisfied and the security will be released when either: (1) the defendant is found not guilty on all charges, or (2) the defendant reports to serve a sentence.

ADVICE OF PENALTIES AND SANCTIONS TO THE DEFENDANT

Defendant is advised that violating any of the foregoing conditions of release may result in the immediate issuance of a warrant of arrest, a revocation of the order of release, an order of detention, a forfeiture of any bond, and a prosecution for contempt of court and could result in imprisonment, a fine, or both.

While on release, if defendant commits a federal felony offense the punishment is an additional prison term of not more than ten years and for a federal misdemeanor offense the punishment is an additional prison term of not more than one year. This sentence will be consecutive (*i.e.*, in addition to) to any other sentence defendant may receive.

It is a crime punishable by up to ten years in prison, and a \$250,000 fine, or both, to: obstruct a criminal investigation; tamper with a witness, victim, or informant; retaliate or attempt to retaliate against a witness, victim, or informant; or intimidate or attempt to intimidate a witness, victim, juror, informant, or officer of the court. The penalties for tampering, retaliation, or intimidation are significantly more serious if they involve a killing or attempted killing.

If, after release, defendant knowingly fails to appear as the conditions of release require, or to surrender to serve a sentence, defendant may be prosecuted for failing to appear or surrender and additional punishment may be imposed, whether or not the defendant is convicted of the pending charges. If defendant is convicted of:

- (1) an offense punishable by death, life imprisonment, or imprisonment for a term of fifteen years or more defendant will be fined not more than \$250,000 or imprisoned for not more than 10 years, or both;
- (2) an offense punishable by imprisonment for a term of five years or more, but less than fifteen years defendant will be fined not more than \$250,000 or imprisoned for not more than five years, or both;
- (3) any other felony defendant will be fined not more than \$250,000 or imprisoned not more than two years, or both;
- (4) a misdemeanor defendant will be fined not more than \$100,000 or imprisoned not more than one year, or both.

A term of imprisonment imposed for failure to appear or surrender will be consecutive to any other sentence imposed. In addition, a failure to appear or surrender may result in the forfeiture of any bond posted.